

# **Bridegroom Matins of Great and Holy Monday**

Sung on Sunday Evening

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## The Royal Office

The priest, in epitrachelion, opens the curtain; the holy doors remain closed. Taking the censer in his right hand, he begins:

**Priest:** Blessed is our God, always, now and ever, and unto ages of ages.

And the priest (not the deacon) performs a **Great Censing**.

**Reader:** Amen.

Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

O heavenly King, the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who art everywhere and fillest all things, Treasury of blessings, and Giver of life: come and abide in us, and cleanse us from every impurity, and save our souls, O Good One.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. **(thrice)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins. O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. **(thrice)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. Lord, have mercy. **(twelve times)**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,  
now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Come, let us worship God our King.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ, our King and our God.

Come, let us worship and fall down before Christ Himself, our King and our God. **(with three bows)**

Amen. In the name of the Lord, Father bless.

*And the priest takes the censer and makes the sign of the Cross before the holy table, saying:*

**Priest:** Glory to the holy, consubstantial, life-giving, and undivided Trinity, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*We read the **Six Psalms** with all heed and the fear of God, as if conversing with Christ our God invisibly.*

*After three Psalms, the priest goes out to stand before the holy doors and, with head uncovered, reads the morning prayers.*

**Reader:** Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will towards men. **(thrice)**

O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. **(twice)**

### ***Psalm 3***

Lord, why are they increased that trouble me? Many are they that rise against me. Many one there be that say of my soul, There is no salvation for him in his God. But thou, O Lord, art my helper, my glory, and the lifter up of my head. I did call upon the Lord with

my voice, and he heard me out of his holy hill. I laid me down and slept, and rose up again, for the Lord will sustain me. I will not be afraid for ten thousands of the people that have set themselves against me round about. Arise, O Lord; save me, O my God, for thou hast smitten all who without cause are mine enemy; thou hast broken the teeth of sinners. Salvation is of the Lord, and thy blessing is upon thy people.

I laid me down and slept, and rose up again, for the Lord will sustain me.

### *Psalm 37*

O Lord, rebuke me not in thine anger, neither chasten me in thy wrath: for thine arrows are stuck fast in me, and thy hand presseth me sore. There is no health in my flesh, because of thy displeasure; neither is there any rest in my bones, by reason of my sin. For my wickednesses are gone over my head; like a sore burden have they too heavy for me. My wounds stink, and are corrupt, because of my foolishness. I am brought into great torment and misery; I go mourning all the day long. For my loins are filled with sores, and there is no healing in my flesh. I was bitter, and utterly humbled; I roared for the very groaning of my heart. Lord, all my desire is before thee, and my lamentation is not hid from thee. My heart is troubled; my strength hath failed me, and the light of mine eyes, even that is gone from me. My friends and my neighbors came right up to me and confronted me, while my kinsmen stood afar off, and they that sought my soul clamored for it; and they that wished me evil spake vanity, and imagined deceit all the day long. But I was like a deaf man, and heard not, and as one that is dumb, who doth not open his mouth. And I became as a man that heareth not, and in whose mouth are no reproofs. For in thee, O Lord, have I put my trust; thou wilt hear me, O Lord my God. For I said, Let never mine enemies triumph over me; for when my foot slipped, boasted against me. For I am ready for scourges, and my pain is ever before me. For I will confess my wickedness, and be sorry for my sin. But mine enemies live, and are stronger than I, and they are become many that hate me wrongfully. They also that reward me evil for good have slandered me, because I follow the thing that good is. Forsake me not, O Lord my God, be not far from me. Attend unto my help, O Lord of my salvation.

Forsake me not, O Lord my God, be not far from me. Attend unto my help, O of my salvation.

## *Psalm 62*

O God, my God, early will I seek thee. My soul hath thirsted for thee, and how my flesh also hath longed after thee in a barren and empty land where no water is. Thus have I looked for thee in the sanctuary, that I might behold thy power and thy glory. For thy mercy is better than life itself; my lips shall praise thee. I will bless thee in my life on this manner: I will lift up my hands in thy name. For my soul shall be satisfied, even as it were with marrow and fatness, and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips. If I remembered thee upon my bed, in the morning I would take comfort in thee, because thou hast been my helper, and in the shelter of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath hanged upon thee; thy right hand hath upholden me. These also that in vain seek my soul shall go under the earth. They shall be given over to the hand of the sword; they shall be a portion for foxes. But the King shall rejoice in God; every one that sweareth by him shall be commended, for the mouth of them that speak lies hath been stopped.

In the morning I would take comfort in thee, because thou hast been my helper, and in the shelter of thy wings will I rejoice. My soul hath hanged upon thee; thy right hand hath upholden me.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. **(thrice)**

## **Great Litany**

**Deacon:** In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** R. Lord, have mercy. **(And so after each of the following petitions.)**

**Deacon:** For the peace from above and for the salvation of our souls, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For the peace of the whole world, for the welfare of the holy Churches of God, and for the union of all, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For this holy house and for those who enter it with faith, reverence, and the fear of God, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For our Metropolitan N., for our Bishop [or Archbishop] N., for the honorable priesthood, the diaconate in Christ, and for all the clergy and the people, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For this country, its President [or the title of the highest civil authority], for all civil authorities, and for the armed forces, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For this city, for every city and countryside, and for the faithful dwelling in them, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For seasonable weather, for abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord. R.

For travelers by land, by sea, and by air; for the sick and the suffering; for captives and their salvation, let us pray to the Lord. R.

That we may be delivered from all affliction, wrath, danger, and necessity, let us pray to the Lord. R.

Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For unto thee are due all glory, honor, and worship: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Deacon:** In the eighth tone: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. V. In the night my soul rises early for thee, O God, for thy commandments are a light on the earth.

**Choir:** R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. (And so after each of the following verses.)

**Deacon:** V. Learn righteousness, you that live on the earth. R.

V. Jealousy shall grasp an untaught people. R.

V. Bring evils upon them, O Lord; brings evils upon those who are glorious on the earth.  
R.

And the deacon (or priest, if there is no deacon serving) returns to the altar by the south door.

### *Eighth Tone*

**Choir:** Behold the Bridegroom comes in the middle of the night; and blessed is the servant whom he shall find watching, but unworthy is he whom he shall find in slothfulness. Beware, then, O my soul, and be not overcome by sleep, lest thou be given over to death and shut out from the Kingdom. But return to soberness and cry aloud: Holy, holy, holy art thou, O God: through the Theotokos have mercy upon us. **(twice)**

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir:** Behold...

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

And the reader now reads the **4th Kathisma** from the Psalter. When finished:

**Reader:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. **(thrice)**

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

*Kathisma Hymn, First Tone*

**Choir:** Today the Holy Passion shines forth upon the world with the light of salvation; for Christ in his love hastens to his sufferings. He who holds all things in the hollow of his hand consents to be hung upon the Tree, that he may save mankind.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Today, the Holy Passion...

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**Reader:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

*And the reader now reads the 5th kathisma. When finished:*

**Reader:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. **(thrice)**

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

*Kathisma Hymn, First Tone*

**Choir:** O Judge invisible, how art thou made visible in the flesh? How dost thou now draw near to be slain by lawless men, condemning by thy Passion our own condemnation? Therefore with one accord, O Word, we ascribe praise, majesty and glory to thy power.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O Judge invisible...

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**



Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

And the reader now reads the **6th kathisma**. When finished:

**Reader:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Glory to thee, O God. **(thrice)**

Lord have mercy. **(thrice)**

### *Kathisma Hymn, Eighth Tone*

**Choir:** The first-fruits of the Lord's Passion fill this present day with light. Come then, all who love to keep the feast, and let us welcome it with songs. For the Creator draws near to undergo the Cross; he is questioned, beaten, and brought to Pilate for judgement; a servant strikes him on the face, and all this he endures that he may save mankind. Therefore let us cry aloud to him: O Christ our God who lovest man, grant remission of sins to those who venerate in faith thy Holy Passion.

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

The first-fruits...

During the second singing of the **kathisma hymn**, the priest puts on the phelonion and opens the holy doors in preparation for the reading of the Gospel, which is read at the holy altar.

**Deacon:** And that we may be accounted worthy of hearing the holy Gospel, let us pray to the Lord God.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. **(thrice)**

**Deacon:** Wisdom. Stand upright. Let us listen to the holy Gospel.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Priest:** The reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Choir:** Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

**Deacon:** Let us attend.

*Matthew 21:18–43, §84–88*

**Priest:** At that time, as Jesus was returning to the city, he became hungry. And seeing a fig tree by the wayside, he went to it and found nothing on it but only leaves. And he said to it, “May no fruit ever come from you again!” And the fig tree withered at once. When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither at once?” And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” And when he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. “What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.

“Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the

tenants to get his fruit. And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.' And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the Scriptures: 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes'? Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits.'"

**Choir:** Glory to thee, O Lord, glory to thee.

The holy doors are now closed and the phelonion is removed. The priest exits the altar by the north door and stands before the holy doors.

### *Psalm 50*

**Reader:** Have mercy upon me, O God, after thy great goodness, and according to the multitude of thy mercies do away mine offences. Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my fault, and my sin is ever before me. Against thee only have I sinned, and done evil before thee, that thou mightest be justified in thy words, and prevail when thou art judged. For behold, I was conceived in wickedness, and in sins did my mother bear me. For behold, thou hast loved truth; the hidden and secret things of thy wisdom hast thou revealed unto me. Thou shalt sprinkle me with hyssop, and I shall be made clean; thou shalt wash me, and I shall become whiter than snow. Thou shalt give joy and gladness to my hearing; the bones that have been humbled will rejoice. Turn thy face from my sins, and put out all my misdeeds. Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence, and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. O give me the comfort of thy salvation, and stablish me with thy governing Spirit. Then shall I teach thy ways unto the wicked, and the ungodly shall be converted unto thee. Deliver me from blood-guiltiness, O God, the God of my salvation, and my tongue shall rejoice in thy righteousness. O Lord, open thou my lips, and my mouth shall show forth thy praise. For if thou hadst desired sacrifice, I would have given it; but thou delightest not in burnt offerings. The sacrifice unto God is a contrite spirit; a contrite and humble heart God shall not despise. O Lord, be favorable in thy good will unto Zion, and

let the walls of Jerusalem be builded up. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifice of righteousness, with oblation and whole-burnt offerings; then shall they offer young bullocks upon thine altar.

*Standing before the holy doors and facing the icon of Christ, the priest reads this prayer:*

**Priest:** O God, save thy people and bless thine inheritance. Visit thy world with mercy and compassions. Exalt the horn of Orthodox Christians, and send down upon us thy rich mercies. Through the intercessions of our all-pure Lady the Theotokos and ever-virgin Mary; by the might of the precious and life-giving Cross; by the protection of the honorable bodiless powers of heaven; at the supplication of the honorable, glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John; of the holy, glorious, and all-laudable Apostles; of the holy, glorious, and right victorious martyrs; of our venerable and God-bearing fathers; of saint N. [of the temple], of the holy and righteous ancestors of God Joachim and Anna, and of all thy saints, we beseech thee, O most merciful Lord, hearken to us sinners who make our supplications unto thee, and have mercy on us.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy. **(12 times)**

**Priest:** Through the mercies and compassions and love for mankind of thine Only-begotten Son with whom thou art blessed, together with thine all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*The priest reenters the altar by the south door.*

**First Ode**  
***Irmos, Second Tone***

**Choir:** Let us sing to the Lord who by his divine command dried up the billowing sea where none might walk, and through it led the people of Israel on foot: for he has been greatly glorified.

**Reader:** R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

Ineffable is the condescension of the Word of God. Christ is himself both God and man; yet he counted not his Godhead a thing to be seized and held fast, and this he showed to his disciples by taking the form of a servant: for he has been greatly glorified. R.

“I who am rich in Godhead have come to minister to Adam who is grown poor. I who fashioned him have of mine own will put on his form. I who am impassable in my divinity have come to lay down my life as a ransom for him.” R.

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

*Before the last troparion, the refrain is:*

**Reader:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### ***Katavasia, Second Tone***

**Choir:** Let us sing to the Lord who by his divine command dried up the billowing sea where none might walk, and through it led the people of Israel on foot: for he has been greatly glorified.

*The deacon, standing before the holy doors, now says the Little Litany (or, if no deacon is serving, the priest, remaining before the holy table, says the Little Litany).*

### **Little Litany**

**Deacon:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** R. Lord, have mercy. *(And so after each of the following petitions.)*

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For thou art our God, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### *Kontakion, Eighth Tone*

Jacob lamented the loss of Joseph, but his righteous son was seated in a chariot and honoured as a king. For he was not enslaved to the pleasures of Egypt, but he was glorified by God who sees the hearts of men and bestows on them a crown incorruptible.

### *Ikos*

Let us now add our lamentation to the lamentation of Jacob, and let us weep with him for Joseph, his wise and glorious son who was enslaved in body but kept his soul free from bondage, and became lord over all Egypt. For God grants unto his servants a crown incorruptible.

*The deacon (or priest, if no deacon is serving) now does a full censuring of the Church. The Magnificat is not appointed.*

### **Eighth Ode**

#### *Irmos, Second Tone*

**Choir:** The unwearied fire, fed with endless fuel, drew back in fear before the pure bodies and pure souls of the holy Children; and as the undying flame decreased in strength, they sang an everlasting song: O all ye works, praise ye the Lord and exalt him above all for ever.

**Reader:** R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

“Then shall all men know that ye are My disciples, if ye keep My commandments,” said the Saviour to his friends, as he went to his Passion. “Be at peace with one another and with all men; think humbly of yourselves and ye shall be exalted; acknowledge Me as Lord, and praise and exalt Me above all for ever.” R.

“Let your power over your fellow-men be altogether different from the dominion of the Gentiles: their self-willed pride is not the order that I have appointed, but a tyranny. He

therefore who would be the first among you, let him be the last of all. Acknowledge Me as Lord, and praise and exalt Me above all for ever.” R.

*Before the penultimate troparion, the refrain is:*

**Reader:** Let us bless the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord.

*Before the last troparion, the refrain is:*

**Reader:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### ***Katavasia, Second Tone***

**Choir:** We praise, bless, and worship the Word, singing and exalting him throughout all ages. The unwearied fire, fed with endless fuel, drew back in fear before the pure bodies and pure souls of the holy children; and as the undying flame decreased in strength, they sang an everlasting song: “O all ye works, praise ye the Lord and exalt him above all forever.”

### **Ninth Ode**

#### ***Irmos, Second Tone***

**Choir:** Thou hast magnified, O Christ, the Theotokos who bore thee: from her, O our Creator, hast thou taken a body of like passions to our own, and so hast set us free from all our ignorance. Therefore with all generations we call her blessed and we magnify thee.

**Reader:** R. Glory to thee, our God, glory to thee.

“Cast away all the impurity of the passions and obtain a wise understanding, worthy of God’s kingdom,” thou hast said, O Wisdom of all, to thine apostles; “and ye shall be glorified, and shine forth brighter than the sun.” R.

“Taking me as your example,” thou hast said, O Lord, to thy disciples, “think not proud thoughts but be content with what is humble. Ye shall drink of the cup that I drink of, and so ye shall be glorified with me in the kingdom of the Father.” R.

*Before the penultimate troparion, the refrain is:*

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

*Before the last troparion, the refrain is:*

**Reader:** Now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

### ***Katavasia, Second Tone***

**Choir:** Thou hast magnified, O Christ, the Theotokos who bore thee: from her, O our Creator, hast thou taken a body of like passions to our own, and so hast set us free from all our ignorance. Therefore with all generations we call her blessed and we magnify thee.

*The deacon, standing before the holy doors, now says the Little Litany (or, if no deacon is serving, the priest, remaining before the holy table, says the Little Litany).*

### **Little Litany**

**Deacon:** Again and again in peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Choir:** R. Lord, have mercy. (And so after each of the following petitions.)

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace. R.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For all the powers of heaven praise thee, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

### ***Exapostilarion, Third Tone***

I see thy bridal chamber adorned, O my Saviour, and I have no wedding garment that I may enter there. Make the robe of my soul to shine, O Giver of Light, and save me. (twice)



**Reader:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir:** I see thy bridal chamber...

## The Praises

### *Psalm 148*

**Reader:** Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise him in the highest. Praise him, all ye his angels; praise him, all ye his hosts. Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all ye stars and light. Praise him, ye heaven of heavens, and thou water that art above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord; for he spake, and they came to be; he commanded, and they were created. He hath established them for ever, and for ever and ever; he hath set an ordinance, and it shall not pass away. Praise the Lord from the earth, ye dragons, and all deeps; fire and hail, snow and ice, the stormy wind, fulfilling his word; mountains and all hills, fruitful trees and all cedars; beasts and all cattle, creeping things and feathered fowls; kings of the earth and all people, princes and all judges of the world; young men and maidens, old men and children; let them praise the name of the Lord, for his name only is exalted; his praise is above heaven and earth. And he shall exalt the horn of his people; this is a song for all his saints, for the children of Israel, for the people that draw nigh unto him.

### *Psalm 149*

O sing unto the Lord a new song; his praise is in the church of the saints. Let Israel be glad in her Maker, and let the children of Zion exult in their King. Let them praise his name in the dance; let them sing praises unto him with timbrel and psaltery. For the Lord hath pleasure in his people; and shall life up the meek unto salvation. The saints shall boast in glory, and they will rejoice upon their beds. Let the exultations of God be in their throats, and sharp two-edged swords in their hands, to do vengeance among the heathen, and rebuke among the peoples; to bind their kings in chains, and their nobles with manacles of iron. To do among them the judgment written. This glory shall be to all his saints.

### *Psalm 150*

O praise God in his sanctuary, praise him in the firmament of his power.  
In the first tone. Praise him for his mighty acts, praise him according to the multitude of his greatness.

### *First Tone*

**Choir:** As the Lord went to his voluntary Passion, he said to his apostles on the way: “Behold, we go up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man shall be betrayed, as it is written of him.” Come, then, and let us also journey with him, purified in mind; let us be crucified with him and die for his sake to the pleasures of this life, that we may also live with him and hear him say: “No longer do I ascend to the earthly Jerusalem to suffer, but I ascend to my Father and your Father, and to my God and your God; and I shall raise you up to the Jerusalem on high in the kingdom of heaven.”

**Reader:** Praise him with the sound of the trumpet, praise him upon the psaltery and harp.

**Choir:** As the Lord went...

**Reader:** Praise him with the timbrel and dance, praise him upon the strings and pipe.

### *Fifth Tone*

**Choir:** We have come, O faithful, to the saving Passion of Christ our God: let us glorify his ineffable forbearance, that in his tender mercy he may also raise us up who have been slain by sin, for he is good and loves mankind.

**Reader:** Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals, praise him upon the cymbals of jubilation. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.

**Choir:** We have come, O faithful...

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir:** O Lord, as thou camest to thy Passion, thou hast strengthened the faith of thy disciples, taking them aside and saying to them: “How have ye forgotten what I told you before? According to the Scriptures, it cannot be that a prophet should be killed save in Jerusalem. Now is the time at hand, of which I spake to you: for see, I am betrayed into the hands of sinners; they shall mock me and nail me to the cross and deliver me up for burial, with loathing looking on me as a corpse. Yet be of good courage: for on the third day I shall rise, bringing joy and life eternal to the faithful.”

**Priest:** To thee is due glory, O Lord our God, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen.

### Small Doxology

**Priest:** Glory to thee who hast shown us the light.

*Towards the end of the Doxology, the deacon (or priest, if no deacon is serving) comes out to stand before the holy doors.*

**Reader:** Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to men. We praise thee; we bless thee; we worship thee; we glorify thee; we give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty; O Lord, the Only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; and the Holy Spirit. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy on us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord, O Jesus Christ, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Every day will I give thanks to thee and praise thy name forever; yea, for ever and ever. Lord, thou hast been our refuge from generation to generation. I said, Lord, be merciful to me and heal my soul, for I have sinned against thee. Lord, I have fled unto thee; teach me to do thy will, for thou art my God. For with thee is the fountain of life, and in thy light shall we see light. O continue thy mercy upon them that know thee.

Vouchsafe, O Lord, that we may be kept this day without sin. Blessed art thou, O Lord God of our fathers, and praised and glorified is thy name forever. Amen. Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, as we have set our hope on thee. Blessed art thou, O Lord: teach me thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Master: make me to understand thy statutes. Blessed art thou, O Holy One: enlighten me with thy statutes.

Thy mercy, O Lord, endureth forever; despise not the works of thy hands. To thee is due praise; to thee is due a song; to thee is due glory: to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

## The Morning Litany

**Deacon:** Let us complete our morning prayer unto the Lord.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** Help us, save us, have mercy on us, and keep us, O God, by thy grace.

**Choir:** Lord, have mercy.

**Deacon:** That the whole day may be perfect, holy, peaceful, and sinless, let us ask of the Lord.

**Choir:** R. Grant this, O Lord. *(And so after each of the following petitions.)*

**Deacon:** An angel of peace, a faithful guide, a guardian of our souls and bodies, let us ask of the Lord. R.

Pardon and remission of our sins and transgressions, let us ask of the Lord. R.

All things that are good and profitable for our souls, and peace for the world, let us ask of the Lord. R.

That we may complete the remaining time of our life in peace and repentance, let us ask of the Lord. R.

A Christian ending to our life, painless, blameless, and peaceful, and a good defense before the dread Judgment Seat of Christ, let us ask. R.

Commemorating our most holy, most pure, most blessed and glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-virgin Mary with all the saints, let us commend ourselves and each other, and all our life unto Christ our God.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** For thou art a good God and lovest mankind, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

**Priest:** Peace be unto all.

**Choir:** And to thy spirit.

**Deacon:** Let us bow our heads unto the Lord.

**Choir:** To thee, O Lord.

**Priest:** O holy Lord who dwellest on high and regardest the humble of heart, and with thine all-seeing eye dost behold all creation: unto thee have we bowed the neck of our soul and body, and we entreat thee, O Holy of holies: stretch forth thine invisible hand from thy holy dwelling-place, and bless us all. And if in any way we have sinned, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, forgive, inasmuch as thou art a good God, and lovest mankind, granting us thine earthly and heavenly good things.

For thine it is to show mercy and to save us, O our God, and unto thee do we send up glory: to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Choir:** Amen.

*The deacon (or priest, if no deacon is serving) returns to the altar.*

## **Aposticha**

### ***Fifth Tone***

**Choir:** O Lord, the mother of the sons of Zebedee, not understanding the hidden mystery of thy dispensation, asked thee to give the honors of a temporal kingdom to her sons. But instead of this thou hast promised to thy friends that they should drink the cup of death; and thou hast said that thou wouldest drink this cup before them, to cleanse men from their sins. Therefore we cry aloud to thee: O salvation of our souls, glory to thee.

**Reader:** We were satisfied with thy mercy in the morning, O Lord, and we rejoiced and were glad; we were glad all our days; for the days wherein thou didst humble us, the years

wherein we saw adversity. And look upon thy servants, and upon thy works, and guide their children.

**Choir:** O Lord, teaching thy disciples to think perfect thoughts, thou hast said to them: “Be not like the Gentiles, who exercise dominion over those who are less strong. But it shall not be so among you, my disciples, for I of mine own will am poor. Let him, then, who is first among you be the minister of all. Let the ruler be as the ruled, and let the first be as the last. For I myself have come to minister to Adam in his poverty, and to give my life as a ransom for the many who cry aloud to me: Glory to thee.”

**Reader:** And let the brightness of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, prosper thou our handy-work.

### *Eighth Tone*

**Choir:** O brethren, let us fear the punishment of the fig tree, withered because it was unfruitful; and let us bring worthy fruits of repentance unto Christ, who grants us his great mercy.

**Reader:** Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever, and unto ages of ages. Amen.

**Choir:** The serpent found a second Eve in the Egyptian woman, and with words of flattery he sought to make Joseph fall. But, leaving his garment behind him, Joseph fled from sin; and like the first man before his disobedience, though naked he was not ashamed. At his prayers, O Christ, have mercy upon us.

**Reader:** It is a good thing to give thanks unto the Lord, and to sing unto thy name, O Most High; to tell of thy mercy in the morning, and of thy truth every night.

Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy Immortal: have mercy on us. **(thrice)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

O most holy Trinity, have mercy on us. O Lord, cleanse us from our sins.

O Master, pardon our transgressions. O Holy One, visit and heal our infirmities, for thy name's sake.

Lord, have mercy. **(thrice)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.

**Priest:** For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**Reader:** Amen. Standing in the temple of thy glory, we think ourselves in heaven, O Theotokos. Thou who art the gate of heaven, do thou open unto us the door of thy mercy.

Lord, have mercy. **(forty times)**

Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

More honorable than the cherubim and more glorious beyond compare than the seraphim, without corruption thou gavest birth to God the Word: true Theotokos, we magnify thee.

In the Name of the Lord, Father bless.

**Priest:** Blessed be He Who Is, Christ our God, always, now and ever and unto ages of ages.

**The priest exits the altar by the north door and stands before the holy doors.**

**Reader:** Amen. O heavenly King, uphold our rulers, strengthen the Faith, calm the nations, give peace to the world. Protect this city [or village, or holy monastery], grant to our departed fathers and brethren that they may dwell with the righteous, and accept us in repentance and confession: for thou art good and lovest mankind.

## The Prayer of St. Ephrem

**Priest:** O Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. **(prostration)**

But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant. **(prostration)**

Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother: for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen. **(prostration)**

*And we make twelve bows from the waist, quietly saying, "O God, cleanse me a sinner" each time.*

**Priest:** O Lord and Master of my life, give me not a spirit of sloth, despair, lust of power, and idle talk. But give rather a spirit of chastity, humility, patience, and love to thy servant. Yea, O Lord and King, grant me to see my own transgressions, and not to judge my brother: for blessed art thou unto ages of ages. Amen. **(prostration)**

**Priest:** Glory to thee, O Christ our God and our hope, glory to thee.

**Choir:** Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, now and ever and unto ages of ages. Amen.

Lord, have mercy. **(thrice)**

Father bless.

**Priest:** May the Lord who is going to his voluntary passion for our salvation, Christ our true God, through the prayers of his most pure mother, and of all the saints, have mercy on us and save us, for he is good and loves mankind.

**Choir:** Amen.